

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-33 in the application. Previously, the Applicants amended Claims 1, 4-5, 9, 12, 15-16, 20, 23, 26-27 and 31 and added Claims 34-36.

The Examiner has indicated that dependent Claims 9, 20 and 31 include allowable subject matter. In order to expedite issuance, the Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 12 and 23 with allowable subject matter and have canceled Claims 9, 20 and 31 without prejudice or disclaimer.. Accordingly, pending Claims 1-7, 10-18, 21-29 and 32-36 are in condition for allowance.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-3, 10, 12-14, 21, 23-25 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, 10, 12-14, 21, 23-25 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,552,619 to Shastri in view of U.S. Patent 6,018,547 to Arkhipkin, *et al.*, and in further view of U.S. Patent 5,651,031 to Ishizu. The rejection, however, is now moot since independent Claims 1, 12 and 23 have been amended with allowable subject matter. As such, Claims 1, 12 and 23 and Claims dependent thereon are in condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the §103(a) rejection of Claims 1-3, 10, 12-14, 21, 23-25 and 32 and allow issuance thereof.

II. Rejection of Claims 4-7, 11, 15-22, 26-29 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected dependent Claims 4-7, 11, 15-22, 26-29 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shastri in view of Arkhipkin, Ishizu and in further view of other references. The rejection, however, is now moot since independent Claims 1, 12 and 23 have been amended with allowable subject matter. As such, Claims 1, 12 and 23 and Claims dependent thereon are in condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the §103(a) rejection of dependent Claims 4-7, 11, 15-22, 26-29 and 33 and allow issuance thereof.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants submit that all of the Claims currently pending in this application are in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-7, 10-18, 21-29 and 32-36.

The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, credits or overpayments to Deposit Account 08-2395.

Respectfully submitted,

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